

Reading Area Community College Financial Aid Information Sheet 2026 - 2027

Grants: Do not have to be paid back

Loans: Must be paid back

Work-Study: Earned as a paycheck

We're excited to share the financial aid available to you for the 2026 - 2027 Academic Year at Reading Area Community College. Please note that receiving aid from multiple institutions at the same time is not allowed while you're enrolled at RACC. To help you understand your financial aid package and what's expected of you, we've provided some brief explanations. Additionally, you may need to submit extra documents to finalize your aid. For more details on any additional requirements, please refer to the enclosed offer letter.

To ensure smooth processing of your financial aid, please submit any requested additional documentation to the Financial Aid office before the start of your first semester of enrollment. Failure to do so may result in suspension from courses until at least 50% of your tuition and fees are paid.

Access your College Financing Plan through Self-Service Financial Aid for a comprehensive view of your financial arrangements, www.racc.edu and log into myRacc portal.

FEDERAL PELL GRANT

Your initial offer letter is based on full-time enrollment which means that you must be enrolled for at least 12 credits per semester to receive this amount. Starting from the 2026 – 2027 aid year, the Pell Grant changed in its basis of calculation. Instead of being tied to enrollment status, Pell Grant disbursement amounts will now be determined by Enrollment Intensity. This metric is a percentage value derived from the number of credits a student is enrolled in during a term.

For federal student aid considerations, full-time enrollment equates to 12 credit hours. The chart below illustrates the relationship between enrollment intensity and full-time enrollment. It's important to note that for Pell Grant proration purposes, enrollment intensity cannot exceed 100%.

Credit Hours (CWU INFORMATION)	Enrollment Category - (Previous)	Enrollment Intensity - New 2025 - 2026 & 2026 - 2027
12 Credits (or more)	Full-Time	100% Pell Award
11	Three-Quarter Time	92%
10		83%
9		75%
8	Half-Time	67%
7		58%
6		50%
5	Less-than-half-time	42%
4		33%
3		25%
2		17%
1		8%

PA STATE GRANT (PHEAA) (*Must be enrolled for at least 6 credits*)

Pennsylvania State Grant (PHEAA) - (Minimum enrollment of 6 credits required) this grant is available to eligible Pennsylvania residents, regardless of whether they are enrolled full-time or part-time. Students taking between 6 and 11 credits may receive half of the award amount. However, programs lasting less than two years, such as LPN programs, are ineligible for the State Grant. Additionally, certain courses, such as remedial (e.g., MAT 030) and distance learning courses, may not qualify for this grant.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (SEOG)

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) FSEOG grants are awarded to eligible students who demonstrate significant financial need, as determined by a need analysis based on their Pell Grant eligibility. These grants typically range from \$100 to \$500 per semester and are prioritized for RACC students with the greatest financial need for direct college expenses.

FEDERAL COLLEGE WORK STUDY PROGRAM (FCWSP) (*Must be enrolled for at least 6 credits*)

Funded by the Federal Government, the Work-Study program requires students to be enrolled at least half-time (6 credits) during the academic year. Additionally, students must maintain a semester and cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 and have completed their FAFSA for the upcoming year by May 1st.

Before seeking a work-study position, students must email a copy of their resume to workstudy@racc.edu to receive a work-study eligibility card. It's important to note that work-study positions are limited. Students are paid bi-monthly and receive a regular paycheck. Participating in the Work-Study program can also potentially reduce the need for future loan requests.

FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM (*Must be enrolled for a minimum of 6 credits*)

Students who find themselves ineligible for grants or whose awarded grants fall short of covering their educational expenses have the option to apply for a federal student loan. RACC participates in the Federal Direct Student Loan Program, offering both undergraduate loans and parent PLUS loans.

To begin the loan process, students are required to complete a Master Promissory Note at www.studentaid.gov (once) and undergo entrance counseling (once). Additionally, before any funds can be applied to their account, students must submit a 2026 - 2027 loan request form (enclosed) to the Financial Aid Office.

- **A ONE-SEMESTER LOAN IS DISBURSED IN TWO DISBURSEMENTS, HALF ON THE INITIAL DISBURSEMENT DATE AND THE OTHER HALF APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS LATER. THIS WILL AFFECT THE AMOUNT OF YOUR INITIAL REFUND.**

We want to make you aware of upcoming changes to the federal student loan program that may affect students who are enrolled **less than full time**. Beginning with the upcoming academic year, federal regulations require schools to **prorate** (reduce) federal student loan eligibility for students enrolled part time. This means that if you are enrolled in fewer than full-time credits, the amount of federal student loan funds you are eligible to receive may be **lower than the annual maximum**. These changes are part of updated federal guidelines and apply to all institutions that participate in the federal student aid programs. Loan amounts will be adjusted based on your enrollment level at the time of disbursement.

Semester Borrowing amounts per credit are APPROXIMATE amounts. The following may impact your eligibility:

- Withdrawing from a class in a current semester
- Withdrawing from a class in a past semester
- The number of credits you schedule within an academic year (Fall/Spring/Summer)

	6 credits	7 credits	8 credits	9 credits	10 credits	11 credits	12 or more credits
Dependent (0-29 earned credits)	1375	1595	1815	2090	2310	2530	2750
Dependent (30+ earned credits)	1625	1885	2145	2470	2730	2990	3250
Independent (0-29 earned credits)	2375	2755	3135	3610	3990	4370	4750
Independent (30+ earned credits)	2625	3045	3465	3990	4410	4830	5250

Please be aware that your schedule may impact your semester eligibility, so these amounts are our best approximation.

VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

A small percentage of financial aid applicants must undergo verification, requiring additional documentation before any awards can be disbursed. If selected, you will find the appropriate verification form to facilitate this process. All necessary documentation must be promptly returned to the Financial Aid Office.

Students who consent to using the Direct Data Exchange (DDX) with IRS Data Retrieval when completing the FAFSA are not required to attach tax information. However, if you were unsuccessful with the Direct Data Exchange, you must provide the following:

Dependent Students: Submit a copy of your and/or your parent(s)' 2024 Tax Return Transcript from www.irs.gov or call 1.800.908.9946.

Independent Students: Submit a copy of your and/or your spouse's 2024 Tax Return Transcript from www.irs.gov or call 1.800.908.9946.

Receiving Financial Aid: Once your documentation is in order and your attendance is confirmed, your grants and loans will be seamlessly deposited into your business office account before the halfway point of the semester. If the total of your grants and loans surpasses your institutional fees, any excess funds will be promptly refunded to you. To expedite this process, consider opting for direct deposit via Self-Service.

Bookstore Charges: If your anticipated financial aid exceeds your tuition and fees, you'll receive a bookstore charge. With this charge, students can conveniently purchase their required books using their current RACC ID card. Charges typically open the week before classes begin.

Refunds: Once bookstore charges have been settled and the drop/add period concludes, any remaining financial aid funds are disbursed as refunds. Typically, this process takes place approximately six weeks into the semester for those solely enrolled in the main session. However, enrollment in other sessions may affect the timing of refunds. Refunds are distributed via mail to students and can be utilized for any education-related expenses. To streamline the process, consider setting up automatic deposit into your checking or savings account through Self-Service.

High School Requirements: A high school diploma or GED is a prerequisite for eligibility to receive Federal or State financial aid.

Academic Progress: At the end of each semester, we review your academic progress. If your financial aid is suspended, you have the option to submit a one-time appeal for reinstatement. If your appeal is approved, you'll need to successfully complete each class to keep receiving aid. If your appeal is denied, you will need to either officially withdraw before the semester starts or arrange payment with the Cashier's Office. The criteria we review are as follows:

- **Pace:** Students must pass 66% of attempted credits. F, W and I grades are attempts that result in unsuccessful completion and impact this percentage.
- **Qualitative:** Students must maintain at least a 2.0 Cumulative GPA
- **Quantitative:** Students must complete a whole degree within 150% of the credits required for graduation. For example, a 60-credit program must be completed within 90 attempted credits.

Attendance/Withdrawals: Regular attendance is imperative. Should the Financial Aid Office be notified of your discontinuation of class attendance, your financial aid may be subject to partial or complete revocation, rendering you accountable for any resulting bill. In the event of a complete withdrawal from a semester, the portion of financial aid disbursed will be recalculated based on your registered class duration, potentially leading to a debit on your account for which you will bear responsibility.

FOR MORE IN-DEPTH INFORMATION ON THE VARIOUS FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS, GO TO <https://www.racc.edu/> AND SELECT THE ADMISSIONS TAB. THE FINANCIAL LINK PROVIDES ALL OF THE DETAILS.